

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MR. TODD NELSON

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 27, 2010*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Todd Nelson. Mr. Nelson served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as the Kiantone Town Justice.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Nelson served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Nelson is one of those people and that is why Madam Speaker I rise in tribute to him today.

HONORING ISRAELI  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2010*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, this week we witnessed the 62nd anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. It is an occasion to celebrate the achievements of a country that, like the United States, aspires to be a land of peace, prosperity and the pursuit of happiness.

The United States and Israel are bound by a common history forged by those who dared to dream of democracy and freedom; of civil and human rights; of laws and not wishes. President Harry Truman was the first world leader to recognize the Israeli declaration of independence in 1948. Other countries soon followed. In this way, with the United States at its side, Israel entered the community of nations.

We continue to share that sacred bond born in 1948. The bond carries with it a burden that all such undeniable relationships bring—the responsibility to celebrate our successes, and to address our challenges. We are both stronger nations because of this. To do otherwise would be to diminish that special bond.

An anniversary is also an opportunity to think about the future and therefore this is a time for us to renew our commitment to work for peace. As former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said, “We must think differently, look at things in a different way. Peace requires a world of new concepts, new definitions.” As a friend and ally of Israel, I look forward to the work of nurturing the seeds of peace that will sustain and protect Israel.

TRIBUTE TO JOAN HASKELL

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 27, 2010*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Joan Haskell from the Marshall County Farm Bureau, and to express my appreciation for her 14 years of service to her community.

A Marshall County native with a strong agriculture background, Ms. Haskell achieved the position of Office Administrator with the Bureau's federation staff. Her extensive work with members of the Farm Bureau since 1995 has earned Joan the respect and appreciation of her community.

Madam Speaker, I commend Joan Haskell for her many years of loyalty and dedication to her fellow Iowans. It is an honor to represent Joan in the United States House of Representatives, and I know that my colleagues join me in wishing her a happy and healthy retirement.

HONORING ISRAELI  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2010*

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 62nd anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel.

Sixty-two years ago, a brave group of Jews living in the Middle East made the audacious claim that a Jewish State could be successfully re-invented in their ancient homeland. More than 2,000 years after the last independent Jewish government had come to an end, they believed they could somehow re-establish a Jewish state, almost from scratch, in a way that had never happened before, anywhere in the world.

These daring Jews came from all around the globe: from Yemen, from Russia, from France, from the United States, and, in many cases, from the very land that was about to become the State of Israel. They shared a common heritage, but it remained to be seen whether these disparate peoples could unify to develop a country or a common culture. Could they even agree on what kind of government to form? Or what laws to pass?

Their claim was particularly bold, given that seven Arab neighbors stood ready to destroy this state in its infancy. Armed with some of the most advanced weaponry known to man, these Arab countries were determined never to allow a Jewish state in their neighborhood. But, in what can only be described as a miracle, this tiny Jewish state survived those initial days and fought to victory in 1948. They did it again in 1956, 1967 and 1973. In fact,

every time Arab countries sought to destroy Israel, they found the Israelis stronger and more determined than ever to survive.

Seeing that the military option wasn't successful, the Arab nations turned toward a different method to try to destroy Israel: terrorism. Through rockets, bus bombings, suicide attacks, hostage crises and the murders of countless innocent civilians, Israel has continued to survive, determined that life will go on, as usual, no matter what the obstacle or challenge.

Israel's enemies have also tried to use the United Nations, UN, to delegitimize it. They have passed resolutions in the UN equating Zionism with racism. They have created entire agencies at the UN to highlight Israel's alleged “war crimes.” And they have hijacked the UN Human Rights Council to push their own racist, anti-Semitic agenda.

And despite all of these enemies, Israel has demonstrated over and over its desire and yearning to live in peace. They willingly gave up the Sinai to make peace with Egypt, and signed a peace agreement with Jordan in 1994. They withdrew from Lebanon a decade ago and pulled out of Gaza in 2005, all in hopes they would find a peace partner on the other side.

But instead, Israel's offers have been spurned, and their adversaries have refused to negotiate. Their so-called “partners” say that Israel must make unreasonable concessions before they will even sit down and negotiate with them. When Arab leaders were invited to attend a peace conference with Israel, in 2007, they even refused to walk through the same door as Israel's leaders.

Through all this, the United States has stood by Israel, even in these darkest of times. We provided Israel with weapons, with technical expertise and a friendship that has endured through generation after generation of American leadership. The American people demand no less: we believe in the Jewish people's right to a homeland, and their right to live in peace, as our democratic ally. This position does not win us friends in the Muslim world, but we stand by this position because we know it is right. The people of Israel, I know, are eternally grateful for this friendship and have repaid it with their loyalty throughout the years of its existence.

I am extremely proud of the strong U.S.-Israel relationship and I call on the Obama Administration to continue this tradition of strong U.S. support for Israel. We must focus our attention not on minor irritants in our bilateral relationship, but on bringing the parties together to meet face-to-face for negotiations. We cannot impose any solution on them; only they can come up with a negotiated solution that strengthens the security for both sides and brings about a state for the Palestinian people. Only they can bring peace to this region.

Mr. Speaker, the idea of the State of Israel is as audacious today as it was 62 years ago. It shows that a group of determined individuals can successfully band together and triumph in the most difficult of circumstances. It shows

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